import Policy. There is also a provision to recognise one State Corporation in each State as Export House in relaxation of the established criteria.

Operation of French dairy

1655. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted a French dairy to manufacture and market its products in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the production would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) M/s. Groupe Danone, France, hold a foreign collaboration approval granted on 26.8.96 to manufacture and market Danone's range of dairy and milk based products such as yogurt, yogurt drinks, yogurt snacks, dairy desserts and cheeses, except for SSI reserved items. In January 2002, the company has been permitted to increase foreign equity participation from 80% to 100%. The project is proposed to be located at Ambernath, Maharashtra, subject to locational policy. The revised approval is valid upto 25th August, 2003.

Impact to tobacco consumption on health

1656. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 26 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly eight lakh people become cancer patients every year and the one-third of them have cancer as a result of tobacco consumption;

(b) the impact of increased production of tobacco products on health in India and abroad; and

(c) the names of the countries who promote and encourage the manufacture and marketing of tobacco products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) As per information furnished by ICMR, as of 1999, the prevalence of tobacco related cancer was 1,63,500 cases. According to community based surveys conducted in India, an estimated eight lakh deaths per year could be attributable to tobacco use.

(b) Studies have revealed that treatment of tobacco related diseases and the loss of productivity caused therein cost the country almost Rs. 13,500 crores per annum (at 1990 levels.)

(c) There are around 117 countries which produce and manufacture tobacco and tobacco products. These include the USA, UK, various EU member nations, China, India etc.

Agricultural imports

1657. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of agricultural products whose imports have gone up during the last three years;

(b) the extent of such increase in terms of rupees and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of these imports on domestic agricultural products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) A statement showing import of major agricultural commodities during last three years is enclosed, (see below)

It would be seen that the figures do not reveal any established trend regarding increase in imports. Imports seem to be taking place as per domestic and international demand-supply situation. Some imports such as cashewnut, natural rubber, raw silk and cotton take